



The voice and vision for pupil transportation

February 2005

Editor: Bil I Carr (Virginia Beach)



A Message from our President, Velera Gammons...

I hope you will find information in this month's newsletter that will be beneficial to you and your school division. Thanks to the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services for the articles they provide our editor, Bill Carr, to share in our newsletter. I cannot over emphasize the need for Transportation directors and supervisors to support the publication of The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation by sending Bill Carr material that can be shared in the newsletter.

I would like to share with you something I recently read by Calvin Coolidge as stated below:

"Nothing in the world will take the place of persistence.

Talent will not; nothing is more common than the unsuccessful person with talent.

Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "press on" has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."

How does persistence relate to those of us in Pupil Transportation? We must constantly "press on" in an endeavor to make school bus safety our #1 priority. We should help each other with our knowledge and experience in pupil transportation and actively encourage school bus safety throughout the state. We must make sure motorists are reminded of their legal responsibility to stop for school buses while they are in the process of making pupil stops. Parents, school administrators, children riding school buses, and the school bus drivers should know they have an obligation to promote school bus safety. Your local police department and media should be an excellent source of assistance to you.

News National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS)

Question: "Are mechanics (or other individuals) who drive an empty school bus required to have an "S" endorsement on their Commercial Driver's License (CDL)?"

Answer: According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), which is the responsible federal regulator agency for the Commercial Driver's License Program, the answer is, "Yes."

The Commercial Driver's License Standards appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 383. In addition to the actual regulatory language that appears in the Code of Federal Regulations, the FMCSA also issues interpretations which provide regulatory guidance by explaining or clarifying the regulatory language. The regulatory requirements of Part 383 and the regulatory guidance of the interpretations can be found on the Mac's website – www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rulesregs/fmcsr/fmcsrguide.htm

In 383.3, the following regulatory guidance is provided:

Question 32: Do the regulations require that a person driving an empty school bus from the manufacturer to the local distributor obtain a CDL?

Guidance: Yes. Any driver of a bus that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, or that has a GVWR [gross vehicle weight rating] of 11,794 kilograms (26,001) is required to obtain a CDL in the applicable class.*

(See www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rulesregs/fmcsr/regs/interp383.3.htm)

While Question 32 addresses the driver who delivers a school bus from the manufacturer's facility to the local school bus distributor, the Guidance also applies to anyone else who drives a school bus without passengers, including school bus mechanics.

* The "applicable class" for the driver of a school bus is an "S" endorsement and in the appropriate class of CDL. For example, if a driver has a Class B license with "P" and "S" endorsements, those endorsements are restricted to Class B and C vehicles.

Also, while the Guidance provided in response to Question 32 includes the statement: "However, a passenger endorsement is not required," that part of the Guidance is obviously incorrect. In order to get an "S" endorsement, a driver must first pass the knowledge and skill tests for obtaining a "P" endorsement [see Code of Federal Regulations Part 383.124 (a) (1)].

An Invitation from North Carolina...

Derek Graham, State Director of Pupil Transportation

The center for Urban Affairs at North Carolina State University got a safety grant from UPS and is helping us sponsor a school bus safety conference on March 7th from 9:30 A.M. 'til 2:00 P.M., including lunch. (We are following this with a separate conference for our TIMS users – the computer school bus routing system used in North Carolina). Anyway, what we are focusing on March 7th is by no means North Carolina specific (well, maybe just a little). But I'm sure that some folks from Virginia would find it worthwhile.

Ted Finlayson-Schueler is going to talk about the recent National Transportation Safety Board recommendations – Railroad Crossings and Activity Trip Evacuation Training. The information is available at www.ncbussafety.org.

Specialty Stop Arm Series 5 Electric

Sonny Murianka at NHTSA is interested in knowing if anyone is having problems with the school bus electric stop arm freezing up during inclement weather. If so please send the make, model, year and VIN on the school bus; what happened, and how it was remedied. Please let him know if you have the problem or have found a solution.

Sonny.Murianka@nhtsa.dot.gov

News from Virginia Beach...

Congratulations to Phillip Noteboom, Team Leader for Team 3 at the Oceana School Bus Garage for recently receiving the Master School Bus Technician Certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. The ASE Certification program is a national program which tests and certifies automotive professionals. To obtain the Master Certification, Phil had to pass a series of six exams. As of May 2004, there were only a total of 1,744 individuals Master Certified as School Bus Technicians.

"If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded."

--- Maya Angelou

More News from NASDPTS...

School Bus Industry Anti-Terrorist Training Materials & Media Requests

- On November 2, 2004, as part of our annual meeting activities the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) and the NASDPTS jointly sponsored a school bus security training event in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- In addition to serving as a realistic and valuable training exercise, the demonstration enabled us to create proprietary video footage and other information that we intend to use to create internal security training that is directly applicable to the unique needs of the school bus transportation industry.
- In order to protect the proprietary nature of the event and related information, we specifically advised attendees, including all media sources – that television, video and still cameras were not allowed to record any of the staged events.
- In addition, we also clearly stated that the event was presented solely for the attendees of the NAPT and NASDPTS annual meetings; it was not a public event.
- It has come to our attention that media sources outside of our industry have been in contact with individuals who attended the event and are seeking video or photographs of the event. While we are proud of our efforts to promote even better security for children riding on school buses, and are pleased to talk to the news media about our efforts, raw video footage can be taken out of context very easily and result in incomplete or sensational media coverage

that would give the public an inaccurate picture of what we, as a responsible industry, are trying to accomplish.

- Accordingly, if you have personal pictures or videos of the demonstration on November 2, 2004, please remember that it was and is extremely important to ensure that any video or photographic images of this proprietary event are disseminated only with an accurate explanation that has been approved by NAP and NASDPTS.
- If you receive any requests for information about the demonstration that was conducted by NAPT and NASDPTS in Cincinnati, Ohio, please forward those requests to any of the people listed below.
- We also recommend that you should NOT release video or photographic images of this proprietary event to anyone without our prior authorization.

Michael Martin
NAPT
1-800-898-6278

Charles Gauthier
NASDPTS
540-253-5520

News from Spotsylvania County...

Spotsylvania's approximately 300 school buses were "gearshift" models until recently when 35 new Thomas Built Buses with automatic transmissions became part of their fleet. Plans are to purchase 45 more "automatics" for next school year, if all goes well. Assignments to drivers will be based on the driver's seniority and their performance history.

This year registration for the annual Virginia Pupil Transportation Conference will be handled on-line. Look for more information in the March newsletter.

School Buses and Highway Watch Program

The letter below is from the presidents of the three national associations representing the school bus transportation industry concerning a School Buses and Highway Watch Program. The presidents of these associations are Steven Kalmes (National Association for Pupil Transportation), Pete Japikse (National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services), and Dale Krapf (National School Transportation Association).

December 17, 2004

Dear School Transportation Colleague:

The purpose of this communication is to share information you should know prior to making a decision to enroll your school bus drivers in the existing Highway Watch Program.

Many of you may know of the Highway Watch Program, sponsored by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA). To date, the ATA has received nearly \$20,000,000 from the Transportation Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for this program, part of which is being used to provide voluntary security training to the millions of commercial drivers on the Nation's highways. This program, Called Highway Watch Program, was launched earlier this year in partnership with state trucking association, who receive financial support for their efforts to train as many drivers as possible, including school bus drivers.

Representatives of the school bus transportation industry have been meeting with ATA for several months in an effort to explain that we too believe security training is essential for everyone who operates a commercial mother vehicle, especially our Nation's school bus drivers. We believe that the approximately 600,000 school bus drivers that travel the streets and roads in America on any given school day are truly the "eyes and ears" of their community and would, therefore, make our industry a logical partner in this program. We also have encouraged ATA to work with us to develop specific training materials that are applicable to the unique needs of school bus drivers. To date, the Highway Watch Program has not been modified to accommodate the uniqueness of our industry.

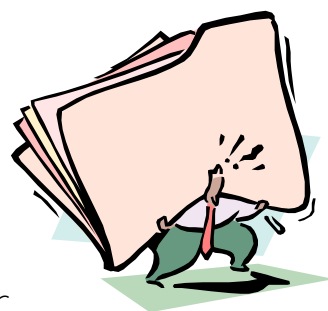
Since we believe that security training should be directly applicable to our industry, the associations that represent the public and private sectors of the school bus transportation industry have united to create and develop in-depth security information and training materials specific to school bus drivers. These resources include publications, video footage and other information that have been created specifically by and for the industry. They are very different from the current Highway Watch Program, which is primarily focused on commercial truck drivers. Our school bus-specific program will include not only pre-trip inspection information, but also will focus on the fact that our operators regularly pass repeatedly through residential neighborhoods, and see many community members on a regular basis. In many cases our operators also are linked to a local dispatcher by radio, which will call for a unique adaptation of the communication taught in the traditional Highway

Watch Program. In essence, the school bus specific program will accomplish the same goals that have been identified at a national level for driver security training, but it will do so with a much closer fit to the nature of our unique business, complementing the continued efforts already being made in pupil transportation for safety in general.

If you are currently planning or contemplating a security training workshop for your bus drivers – especially if it's the Highway Watch Program – we encourage you to consider carefully the option of using a school bus-specific program. That program, as well as several alternatives, is being developed and identified jointly by the school bus associations, and will be available this Spring. In the interim, we encourage you to seek out the security information and training materials that continue to be developed by the three associations that represent the school bus industry – NAPT, NASDPTS, and NSTA.

"Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot."
--- Clarence Thomas

Please contact Tim Parker at Tim.Parker@fcps.edu, ASAP if you are interested or know of someone who would be willing to serve as VAPT's Web Site Curator.
VAPT Website: www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Finance/VAPT



Bullet Dodged for Another Year

You may have heard by now that the "share the ride" bill was finally defeated by a close margin, 9-6. It's dead for this year, but is sure to come back next session.

REMINDER

This year's VAPT/DOE Pupil Transportation Conference will begin on Sunday, June 19, 2005, at noon with registration and workshops. Conference Registration/VAPT Shirt Sales will continue on Monday, June 20, at 7 A.M. Tuesday, June 21, the Technician's Workshops (Badge required) will begin at 6:30 A.M. and the Second General Session for Supervisors begins at 7:30 A.M. The banquet will be held that night at 6:00 P.M. with a dance following 30 minutes after the banquet. Wednesday, June 22, 2005, will open with a breakfast at 7:00 A.M. until 8:30 A.M. The conference will concluded on that day.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

VAPT WEBSITE: [y](#)
Web Master

[E/FINANCE/VAPT](#)
un County



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION
Vehicular Maintenance Facility
Full-Time, 12 months

LOCATION: Albemarle County Public Schools

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Deputy Director of Transportation is responsible for direct supervision and management oversight of the day-to-day pupil transportation and fleet maintenance functions. This position also serves as department head in the absence of the Transportation Director. Essential functions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Training and evaluation of subordinates;
- Interprets and complies with applicable state and federal guidelines governing school bus operations and maintenance;
- Develops budgetary initiatives and monitors expenditures; chair collision review committee;
- Liaison with parents, the public, and school and general government officials;
- Monitors and maintains compliance with OSHA standards;
- Initiates necessary actions to ensure safe, efficient, economical school bus routing and vehicle maintenance and repair to include:
 - Compilation of data and draft reports required at state and local levels
 - Evaluating vehicle specifications and purchases in terms of safety, cost and operational viability
 - Evaluating road and weather conditions
 - Monitors and approves training programs

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must have experience in developing a department level budget; the ability to manage a multi-faceted staff; the ability to communicate complex ideas and concepts; and have the ability to conduct technical training. Must possess knowledge of basic automotive repair and maintenance; have experience developing preventive maintenance safety schedules, and a basic familiarity with computerized fleet maintenance management. May have any combination of education and experience *equivalent* to graduation from a four-year college and have a minimum of 7 years experience in fleet management and operation. A minimum of 5 years of management and supervisory experience is required. Must have a Virginia Commercial Driver License (CDL), or the ability to, obtain a CDL within six months of employment.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND NATURE OF WORK CONTACTS:

Work is typically performed in an office setting and an open bay maintenance facility. Some stooping, bending, and crawling to inspect on or under vehicles is necessary. Occasional traveling throughout all county roads during day and evenings during inclement weather is

required. Frequent contact with school bus shop personnel is necessary. Personal contact with schools, parents, students and the general public is required. Contacts may sometime be of an uncooperative nature. In the absence of the director it may be necessary to meet with the superintendent and his staff.

SALARY: \$56,736 - \$75,647/ annually depending on experience and qualifications.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: February 21, 2005

APPLY: **On-line** at <http://www.albemarle.org/jobs>

Application terminals are available at the Albemarle County Office Building

401 McIntire Road

Charlottesville, VA 22901

Contact Davra Miller in the Human Resources Office via e-mail at dmiller@albemarle.org



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TRANSPORTATION
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